

electronic Federal Depository Library Program and began a pilot project to test the GPO's ability to digitize retrospective Government publications for online public access. Throughout his tenure, Bruce has ensured that we have the products and services we need to conduct our daily business in Congress.

In carrying out this program of change, Bruce brought to the GPO a broad range of business principles and practices, earning him the title of 2006 Civilian Executive of the Year from Government Computer News. He instilled a new focus on customer service for Congress and the departments and agencies that depend on the GPO and has provided new service options that make it easier and more convenient to use the GPO. He turned around the financial status of the agency, posting a positive financial performance every year since 2004 and reversing a pattern of previous losses that has provided the agency with the capital to make much-needed investments in technology. He brought aboard a wide range of experts in technology and systems integration, finance, marketing, secure and intelligent documents, digital media, and related fields, to guide the GPO forward. And to his credit, Bruce brought before the Congress the issue of how best to utilize the GPO's aging and out-sized buildings for its future operations.

Mr. President, Congress, Federal departments and agencies, and all those among the public who rely on the GPO have been well served over the past 4 years by Public Printer Bruce James. His unceasing call for technology modernization and his steadfast adherence to business best practices will leave a legacy of continued improvement at the GPO for many years to come. As Bruce departs the GPO to return to retirement in his beloved Nevada, he leaves with our best wishes and the thanks of a grateful nation for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY M. HAMMOND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, as chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I want to pay tribute to Jerry Hammond, Director of Congressional Publishing Services, who retired from the Government Printing Office, GPO, after 37 years of Government service.

Mr. Hammond graduated from DeMatha High School in 1969 and then served as a sergeant, E-5, in the U.S. Marines Corps. Jerry came to GPO in 1972 and graduated in the apprentice class of 1977 in the Hand Section of the Composing Division. Mr. Hammond joined the Office of Congressional Publishing Services in 1985 and was promoted to the position of Director in 2004.

Jerry worked on the night shift at GPO for many years working closely with several congressional offices, House and Senate, night in and night out, to ensure the production and delivery of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD,

House and Senate Calendars, and congressional bills and reports. He was also instrumental in establishing remote composition capabilities at congressional offices which continue to be used today.

Jerry Hammond also worked very closely with my staff on the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies. He assisted us with the very successful redesign of the inaugural tickets, enhancing their security, usability, and appearance. Additionally, he personally oversaw the printing of the programs, gifts, menus, and various other inaugural products. Anyone who has worked with Jerry over the years could not help but be impressed with his easygoing demeanor, especially under the pressure of meeting the printing requirements of Congress.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jerry Hammond for his service to GPO and Congress. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

FATHER ANGELO D'AGOSTINO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, two Sundays ago, when Marcelle and I were at mass at Holy Trinity at Georgetown, we listened to a homily about the life of Angelo D'Agostino, SJ. I had been thinking about Father D'Ag, as those of us knew him called him, since I had received word from his dear friend Ben Palumbo that he had died. Ben and Madge Palumbo were wonderful friends to Father D'Ag, as they have been to Marcelle and me.

As Father Kevin O'Brien noted while talking about the home Father D'Agostino began in Nyumbani, Kenya, Father D'Ag worked tirelessly to raise money, especially for abandoned HIV-positive children. His Nyumbani village was designed to hold together families, where most members had lost their normal family cohesiveness because of deaths from AIDS. So many of us, like my friend Senator Dennis DeConcini and others, always responded when the Palumbos asked us to go to fund-raisers to raise money for the work Father D'Agostino was doing throughout Africa. I told some of his fellow Jesuits that we long ago decided that we would do whatever Father D'Agostino wanted—eventually he'd make sure we would anyway, so we might as well do it graciously to begin with. Nothing fazed him when he was asking for others. He always went out of his way to remind Senator DeConcini, Ben Palumbo, and me that we shared Italian heritage. I once told him, "Angelo, no matter who you were seeking help from, you would find something to connect you, and that would be the reason to do it." I remember his laugh to this day.

The beauty of Father D'Agostino and the saintly nature of him was that he never asked for anything for himself—it was always for others. He gave a voice to those who had no voice, and he leaves a great gap in their lives.

Even the President of Kenya and his wife attended the funeral to express his sorrow for the death of Father D'Agostino. He told the board members and others at the funeral that they must carry on Father D'Ag's work. He said, "I am sure that is the assurance Father D'Agostino would have liked. He founded these homes and wanted to succeed in reducing the prevalence and effects of HIV/AIDS. You should take the responsibility of ensuring that Father D'Agostino's work continues."

I ask unanimous consent that an article by Joe Holley of The Washington Post about Father D'Agostino be printed in the RECORD, as well as an article from the official website of the President of Kenya.

For my part, I feel blessed for having known Father D'Ag and I mourn his loss.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ANGELO D'AGOSTINO; PRIEST AIDED HIV-POSITIVE ORPHANS
(By Joe Holley)

The Rev. Angelo D'Agostino, 80, a physician, psychiatrist and Jesuit priest who opened one of the first orphanages for abandoned HIV-positive children in Kenya, died Nov. 20 of cardiac arrest at the Karen Hospital in Nairobi. He had been hospitalized for a week with abdominal pain from diverticulitis and died after surgery.

Father D'Agostino, who practiced and taught psychiatry in Washington during the 1970s and '80s, was called to a country with more than 1 million children whose parents have died of AIDS. Many of the children, often HIV-positive themselves, have been abandoned or left to roam through Kenya's big-city slums.

He encountered the needs of Kenya's children while serving on the board of governors for a large orphanage in 1991. When the orphanage began receiving scores of abandoned children who tested HIV-positive, Father D'Agostino suggested setting up a facility for them. The board opposed the idea, so in 1992, he founded the Nyumbani Orphanage, beginning with three HIV-positive children.

Today Nyumbani, or "home" in Swahili, shelters about 100 Kenyan children, from newborns to 23-year-olds.

The larger nonprofit organization, also called Nyumbani, includes Lea Toto (Swahili for "to raise the child"), a community-based program founded in 1998 to provide outreach services to HIV-positive children and their families in the Nairobi area. Nyumbani also has the most advanced blood diagnostic laboratory in Kenya.

At the time of his death, Father D'Agostino, an indefatigable fundraiser, had just returned from Rome and the United States, where he had solicited money for Nyumbani Village, a self-sustaining community to serve the orphans and elderly left behind by the "lost generation" of the AIDS pandemic. The goal of the village, which has plans for 100 houses, a school, a clinic and a community center, is to create new blended families for orphaned children under the care of elderly adults.

"It was difficult to say no to him, particularly because what he asked you to do were the kinds of things your conscience would bedevil you about if you said no," said Benjamin L. Palumbo, a Washington attorney who serves as president of Nyumbani's U.S. board of directors.

Father D'Agostino's friends and orphanage supporters ran the political gamut, from

former Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) to Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt). Leahy called him "a living saint"

Short and rotund, "Father D'Ag," as some knew him, was quick to laugh but also had a temper, his friend James Desmond recalled. Desmond, former owner of a downtown bar called Beowulfs, one of the priest's haunts when he lived in Washington, recalled being with him in a meeting with congressional aides who were giving him the polite brush-off. When the priest realized what was happening, Desmond had to hustle him out the door before his temper got the best of him.

In 2001, Nyumbani became the first place in Africa to import deeply discounted AIDS drugs under an Indian pharmaceutical company's program to make such drugs more affordable on the continent where most of the world's AIDS patients live and die.

"I am sick and tired of doing funerals," Father D'Agostino told *The Washington Post*, explaining why he was willing to defy national regulations and international patent rules to buy cheaper, generic AIDS drugs.

"It's really the darker side of capitalism, the greed that is being manifest by these drug companies holding sub-Saharan Africa hostage," he told *The Post*. "People are dying because they can't afford their prices."

He also sued the Kenyan government for its policy banning HIV-positive children from the nation's public schools. He won that suit last year, which allowed more than 100,000 children to rejoin their classmates in schools across the country.

Angelo D'Agostino was one of six children born to Italian immigrants in Providence, R.I. His younger brother, Dr. Joseph D'Agostino of Fairfax, recalled that he had asthma as a child, so he spent a lot of time reading, making model airplanes and growing plants and flowers in the family's back yard.

He received his undergraduate degree in chemistry and philosophy from St. Michael's College in 1945 and his medical degree from Tufts University in 1949. He received a master of science degree in surgery from Tufts in 1953.

He served in the Air Force from 1953 to 1955 as chief of urology at Bolling Air Force Base. After attending a retreat with the Knights of Columbus, he decided to enter the priesthood in 1954, although the Jesuits at Georgetown asked him to take a year before making a final decision.

"The Jesuits couldn't use a urologist or kidney stone specialist," his brother recalled, "so they told him to go into psychiatry."

After a psychiatric residency at Georgetown from 1959 to 1965 and further work at the Washington Psychoanalytic Institute from 1962 to 1967, he became one of the first American Jesuits to be trained as a psychiatrist. (He liked to say he had "more degrees than a thermometer," a nephew recalled.)

He was ordained in 1966, earlier than expected because the Jesuits were concerned that he was going to succumb to lupus, an illness he had battled his whole life.

He taught psychiatry at Georgetown University and George Washington University and in 1972 founded the Center for Religion and Psychiatry at the Washington Theological Union to promote dialogue between the two. From 1983 to 1987, he was in private practice in the District. A number of his clients were police officers, many whom he met over beers at Beowulfs.

Father D'Agostino helped administer refugee centers in Thailand and East Africa in the 1980s, but it was the lost children of Kenya who captured his heart and wouldn't let go. They called him "Faza."

He retired when he turned 80, "but it was retirement with a small 'r,'" Joe D'Agostino

said. "He still went to the office every day, although he was happy he didn't have to go to meetings anymore."

He will be buried in Kenya. His brother, his only immediate survivor, recalled that Father D'Agostino had only one regret about his adopted homeland: "He couldn't grow good tomatoes over there. Being a good Italian, that was important to him."

PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY ATTEND FATHER D'AGOSTINO'S REQUIEM MASS

President Mwai Kibaki and First Lady Lucy Kibaki Monday joined other mourners for the requiem mass for Rev. Father Angelo D'Agostino at the Consolata Shrine Catholic Church in Westlands, Nairobi.

The mass was conducted by Nairobi Archbishop Ndingi Mwana A'Nzeki.

Addressing the congregation, President Kibaki urged Kenyans to emulate Father D'Agostino and assist the less fortunate in the society.

He called on board members of Nyumbani Children's Home, Lea Toto and Nyumbani Village in Kitui to carry on with Father D'Agostino's work, ensuring that the homes are well maintained and succeed in serving the HIV/AIDS orphans.

President Kibaki said: "I am sure that is the assurance Father D'Agostino would have liked. He founded these homes and wanted them to succeed in reducing the prevalence and effects of HIV/AIDS."

"You should take the responsibility of ensuring that Father D'Agostino's work continues," the Head of State said.

Paying tribute to Father D'Agostino, the First Lady described him as a colleague in her work of caring for orphans and in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the country.

She pointed out that Father D'Agostino played a pivotal role when she was setting up the Kenya Chapter of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFILA) by introducing her to key people and institutions helping in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

As the patron of Nyumbani Children Homes, the First Lady reassured the orphans that she will continue working hard to provide them with the resources they need.

The First Lady recalled conversations she had with U.S. President George W. Bush during a state dinner in Washington when the U.S. leader hailed the work done by Father D'Agostino in assisting vulnerable members of the Kenyan society.

The mass was also attended by the Pope's representative in Kenya Archbishop Alain Paul Lebeaupin among others.

TRIBUTE TO RON RUPP

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to recognize an outstanding Vermont public servant who goes above and beyond to advocate for better laws and protection to keep children safe from lead poisoning—the No. 1 environmental health threat affecting young children in the United States.

Ron Rupp serves as the current director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, VHCB, Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program and has played a major role in securing more than \$10 million in HUD funds for the State of Vermont for lead hazard control efforts. Having been with this program since its inception in 1994, Ron has worked to expand the availability and quality of training and as-

sistance for landlords and homeowners in order to reduce the hazards of lead poisoning caused by lead-based paint. Under his leadership, the program has provided comprehensive technical and financial assistance to make Vermont properties lead-safe. In addition to direct intervention, Ron has worked to expand education outreach efforts for the public on lead paint hazards, including training of construction and service workers, as well as property owners, and on the importance of testing young children for lead poisoning.

Ron's fight against childhood exposure to lead hazards is not limited to the State level. He has worked closely with the National Center for Healthy Housing to increase the overall body of knowledge on effective control of lead hazards and coauthored two papers on research into lead hazard control methods. Considered an expert on lead and environmental health, he has served as a reviewer for HUD's Lead Paint Safety Guide and other HUD documents.

The most common cause of lead poisoning is exposure to dust from deteriorated lead-based paint, the foremost cause of childhood lead poisoning, in old homes and buildings. Children are most frequently exposed to miniscule lead dust particles from chipping, peeling or flaking paint that cling to toys, fingers and other objects, leading young children to ingest the particles. Poisoning can also come from sources such as soil containing lead from car exhaust, water pipes, lead-glazed ceramic dishware, and plastic mini-blinds.

Too much lead in the body can cause damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system and red blood cells. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 million children living in the United States between the ages of 1 and 5 years have unacceptably high levels of lead in their blood, which may result in learning disabilities, reduced intellectual ability, behavioral problems, or other health problems. Poor children are at special risk because inadequate nutrition increases lead absorption by the body.

Ron's job is by no means an easy one, but he has done exceptional work advocating for better policies and practices so that Vermont's children can grow up in lead-free homes. My home State has the seventh oldest housing stock in the Nation—a real "Lead Leader." In the city of Burlington alone, housing units occupied by low-income residents constitute the highest concentration of older homes in Vermont. Significant lead paint hazards are characteristic of the deteriorated condition of many of these buildings. The result is that Burlington has a childhood lead poisoning rate that is more than double the national average.

Through the hard work of Ron and the VHCB Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program, Vermont is becoming a place where our children can grow up safe from lead poisoning. The